

50X1-HUM

**CLASSIFICATION** **CONFIDENTIAL**

**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

## INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

**COUNTRY** Poland

SUBJECT The 'Wojakowa Centrala Handlowa' (WCH)--Military  
Commerce Center in Krakow/Location/Supplies  
Available There

**PLACE  
ACQUIRED**

**DATE  
ACQUIRED**

DATE DISTR. 18 Oct 1954

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. "The Krakow offices of the WCH [Wojskowa Centrala Handlowo-Military Commerce Center] are located on Rakowicka Street in the military buildings and [ ] on the same floor as the Military Prosecutor. The WCH supplies food, clothing, and other economic articles exclusively for the army and military personnel (such as army families and civilian workers in the army). [ ] the organization is divided into wojewódzkie divisions which have two branches for military units and for military personnel and their families.

3. "The WHH has its stores in the town [Hrakov]. One such store is located at the Rynak Główny and Brodka Street. Only food articles can be bought in this store and these can only be purchased by the
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army and those with army identity cards. No private civilian could buy anything in this store. Only when a person mistakes it for a civilian store and asks for an item that the store wants to get rid of, will he be sold something without a request for identification. Otherwise he would be immediately asked for identification. After a person becomes familiar with the clerk, he does not have to show his identification each time.

4. "Opposite this food store is a textile store, [ ] it is definitely marked: 'Store for the military'. 50X1-HUM
5. "There are also military butcher, milk, and other economic article shops as well as service shops such as tailors, shoemakers, etc. These shops differ very little from other shops except perhaps in their window displays.
6. "The prices in the WGH stores are usually about 20 per cent lower than on the normal market, but the prices are not always constant.
7. "Some articles are reserved exclusively for army officers and their families but denied to civilian workers for the army and their families. This for example, applied in the sale of chocolates and ladies hosiery when they were scarce on the open market. In 1953 there was relatively a much larger supply of 'Stylons' (ladies' hosiery) than in 1950 and 1951. 50X1-HUM
8. "The MO and US have similar stores. They are probably within the buildings without any outdoor signs.

9.

10.

[ ] articles purchased at the WGH stores are often resold on the open market at a profit. If one is caught, however, his card is taken away. [ ]

-end-

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